REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search. Claims 5 and 17 were previously canceled. Hence, claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-30 are pending in this application. The amendments to the claims do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, the amendments to the claims were made to improve the readability and clarity of the claims and not for any reason related to patentability. All issues raised in the Office Action mailed July 10, 2008 are addressed hereinafter.

I.   ISSUES RELATING TO ALLEGED PRIOR ART

A. CLAIMS — 35 U.S.C. § 102(e): ANDERSEN

Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Andersen et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,089,316 (hereinafter "Andersen"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

CLAIM 1

Current claim 1 recites:

1.   A method of providing access to services across a computer network, comprising the step of:

generating an access request by a requesting network access device through which an end user device can obtain access to network resources, said access request comprising a requesting network access device description and a plurality of service requests indicative of computer services for which the requesting network access device requests provisioning;

wherein the requesting network access device description includes one or more of: a requesting network access device vendor, a requesting network access device type, a requesting network access device version and a requesting network access device physical location; and

forwarding said access request for authentication and authorization.

Claim 1 recites one or more features that are not taught or suggested by Andersen. For example, Andersen does not describe "**generating an access request by a requesting network access device through which an end user device can obtain access to network resources, said access request comprising a requesting network access device description; wherein the requesting network access device description includes one or more of: a requesting network access device vendor, a requesting network access device type, a requesting network access device version and a requesting network access device physical location.**"

Andersen's client sends a request for a network resource to an access device, which in turn transmits the request to a service provider. (Andersen: FIG. 1) The service provider receives the client's request, provisions the order, records the order in a data store and creates a service login identifier. The service login identifier includes information about both the order identifier and the resource identifier. (Andersen: column 9, lines 44-46) The resource data stored in the data store includes the resource identifier, the service login identifier, the resource URL and the attributes corresponding to the resource. (Andersen: column 9, lines 44-52) Then the client logs into the service provider using the service login identifier and client's normal password. (Andersen: column 5, lines 38-40) The service provider parses the order identifier and/or resource identifier from the service login identifier and retrieves the client's normal userid previously stored in the data store. (Andersen: column 5, lines 44-48) The password is then authenticated using the retrieved client's normal userid. (Andersen: column 5, lines 48-50) Upon a successful authentication of the client, a service provider establishes a session between the client and the requested resource, and directs the client to the requested resource. (Andersen: Abstract)

However, Andersen's access request does not "comprise a description of the requesting **network access device** through which an end-user device can obtain access to network resources, wherein the [...] description includes one or more of: a requesting network access device vendor, a requesting network access device type, a requesting network access device version and a requesting network access device physical location," as claimed. Andersen's client sends its request via an access device, but Andersen's access device does not add to the client's

request a description of its own device type, version, and physical location, as claimed. Andersen's access device is just a conduit acting as a client's agent that transmits the data packets between the client and the service provider. As a conduit, Andersen's access device identifies itself to the service provider only via its physical and logical address, but not by a "description […] which includes one or more of: a requesting network access device vendor, a requesting network access device type, a requesting network access device version and a requesting network access device physical location," as claimed

Requests in Andersen merely describe resources, not requesting devices. Andersen's access device transmits to the service provider the information received from the client (the client's user id, the client's password and the description of the resource the client requests), but does not add to that information "description of the access device vendor, device type, device version, or device physical location of the requesting network access device through which the client can obtain access to the network resources," as claimed. In fact, the only device description that Andersen's service provider receives in the request is the description of the resource the client wants, not a "description of the vendor/type/version/location of the requesting network access device through which the client can obtain access to the network resources," as claimed.

In sharp contrast to Andersen, according to claim 1, the requesting network access device generates an access request to request network resources for the end user, wherein the access request comprises a requesting network access device description that includes one or more of: a requesting network access device vendor, a requesting network access device type, a requesting network access device version and a requesting network access device physical location." According to claim 1, along with the access request, the requesting network access device sends one or more of: own access device vendor, access device type, access device version and access device physical location. Having this information supplied by the access device to the service provider along with the access request, removes the burden from the service provider's administrator of having to accurately associate service(s) with the network access devices. (Applicants' specification, paragraph [26]) These features are not described in Andersen.

Thus, claim 1 recites at least the above features that are not described in Andersen. Therefore, Andersen cannot anticipate claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 11, 13, 19 AND 23

Claims 11, 13, 19 and 23 recite features similar to those in claim 1. Therefore, applicants believe that claims 11, 13, 19 and 23 are patentable over Andersen for the same reasons discussed for claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The claims that are not discussed above depend directly or indirectly on the claims that have been discussed. Therefore, those claims are patentable for the reasons given above. In addition, each of the dependent claims separately introduces features that independently render the claim patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, and to expedite positive resolution of the examination, separate arguments are not provided for each of the dependent claims at this time.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A petition for an extension of time is hereby made to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any applicable fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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50325-0837 (Seq. No. 7345)   10